

National Public Safety Broadband Network

A Preview of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program



The public safety community has made significant strides toward strengthening national preparedness and improving emergency communications capabilities. First responders, however, continue to be limited by fragmented networks and decades-old wireless technologies. Deploying a cost-effective, nationwide, public safety wireless broadband network will provide public safety agencies with access to advanced, cutting edge technologies and applications to improve their emergency response capabilities.

The nationwide public safety wireless broadband network needs to be closely aligned to commercial deployments of Long Term Evolution wireless services [*commonly known as 4G LTE*] to keep pace with changes in technology and leverage cost efficiencies. It must also deliver mission critical voice and data communications to public safety agencies in State, Local, and Tribal jurisdictions across the Nation, as well as Federal responders and secondary users (such as transportation or utilities). However, the transition from Land Mobile Radio (LMR) to broadband will not occur overnight, and Federal, State, Local, and Private Sector entities must work together to develop requirements and standards to assure mission critical operations.

In the near term, wireless broadband will complement LMR, not replace it. Wireless broadband does not currently meet the requirements for emergency response voice communications, therefore LMR will be around for years.

Investments in LMR will continue to be necessary now and well into the future. Even with the emergence of broadband, it will still be years before emergency responders can rely on broadband technologies for their mission critical communications. Public safety must continue LMR investments as appropriate in this context.

FirstNet has been tasked with building a nationwide wireless public safety broadband network (NPSBN) to be used by Federal, Tribal, State and Local Public Safety Agencies. Once built out, the NPSBN will be run and maintained by FirstNet as a self-supporting, fee-based network.

- Some agencies already use data (air-cards), but 4G LTE will allow for more and faster data – video, building plans, real-time GIS mapping, etc.
- What will this cost? No one knows for sure, however, Arizona should be prepared to participate in the advancements which are offered.

Federal legislation:

- Provides \$7B for the build out of the national public safety broadband network
- Allocates the D-block spectrum to Public Safety
- Requires FirstNet to work with State, Tribal and Local entities
- Allows for funding through Public-Private Partnership and the sharing of spectrum
- Provides \$135M nationally for states to perform outreach and collect data for input into planning by FirstNet on the national network

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State's Role:

- To inform the agencies/jurisdictions of the project timeline, progress and the impacts of the new technology on current operations. (see SLIGP Phase 1 below)
- To collect the State, Tribal and Local requirements, coverage, possible participants, critical infrastructure and special circumstances (see SLIGP Phase 2 below)
- To work with FirstNet on assuring our requirements are communicated and to assist in figuring how to meet the statewide needs
- To assess whether or not the RFP supplied by FirstNet is adequate for statewide needs

The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) is funded at \$135M nationwide with an 80/20 split. It consists of two phases:

- Introduction and Outreach – how the NPSBN may impact current governance and operations
- Data collection – validate agency data, possible participants and possible shared infrastructure

Unlike Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants where funds are available locally – this is a State level grant where the State works with Local and Tribal entities that provide input for inclusion into a response to FirstNet.

Phase 1 – Introduction and outreach program

- Background & Goal
- Governance – National, State, Regional and Local
- Applications and demonstrations
- Introduction to Survey
- Collecting requirements – agency validation, coverage, possible participant pool
- Expectations on timing and costs
- Funding and business model

Phase 2 – Data collection

- Data collection defined by FirstNet/NTIA
- Data collection driven by our State needs for coverage requirements
- Possible infrastructure sharing or public/private partnerships to reduce costs

Outreach and Data collection will cover Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Corrections, PSAP/dispatch, *ADOT and County DOTs, Public Works, Water Departments, etc.*

SLIGP Status: The PSIC Office has submitted Arizona's Grant and is awaiting the award announcement

How to get involved and stay aware?

- Please track progress on the Broadband page: <http://www.azpsic.gov/library/broadband/>
- Sign up for our interested parties email list: <http://www.azpsic.gov/news/default.htm>

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